

Segue features SIUE student trustee Mackenzie Rogers

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On the most recent episode of Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's weekly radio program exploring the lives and work of the people on campus and beyond, Chancellor Randy Pembroke interviews Mackenzie Rogers, a senior psychology major and the SIUE student trustee on the SIU Board of Trustees.

Rogers, of Marshall, Ill., served SIUE Student Government as a student senator-at-large and as student body president during her sophomore and junior years, respectively. Additionally, she is involved in a variety of volunteer initiatives throughout campus.

"You are currently a senior studying psychology, chemistry, biology and pre-law with plans to go to law school," notes Pembroke. "Do you know where you want to go to law school?"

"I'm hoping to get into a top 25 law school, because I eventually want to go into politics," responds Rogers. "Particularly, I'd like to go to the East Coast. Somewhere in Washington D.C. or New York City would be my hopes."

"When did the desire to go into law enter the equation?" inquires Pembroke.

"While I was student body president, I realized my aspirations in life," says Rogers. "I want to help people by advocating for those who cannot help themselves and stand up for what is right."

Currently, Rogers works for politician Katie Stuart, a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from the 112th District. In her position, she assists in planning and promoting events, writing press releases, and discussing relevant issues with constituents.

"I aspire to be like Representative Katie Stuart," says Rogers. "She is a goodhearted person who does what she can to do what's right."

"Tell us a little bit about your motivations to run for student government and what it's like to be a voice for other students," says Pembroke.

"I became involved in student government during eighth grade when I ran for class president," responds Rogers. "Throughout high school, I was also involved as class president and National

Honor Society president, and I found that I loved leadership. After serving as a class senator at SIUE, I had the goal of helping people as the University's student body president."

"Do you think of yourself as a natural leader?" asks Pembroke.

"I was the first to go to college from my family," says Rogers. "I knew when I was in eighth grade that I wanted to attend college, and I needed to put myself into leadership positions to earn scholarships.

"After I started getting involved, I realized that I liked having a voice and speaking up for others. So, it was somewhat natural, and something I instilled in myself over time."

During her time in student government, Rogers worked to push mental health awareness initiatives across campus. She formed the annual event titled "I Have a Reason," which focuses on topics of mental health and self-worth among University students. Additionally, she initiated adding the phone numbers of Counseling Services and the SIUE Police to the back of student ID cards in case of an emergency.

"You are now a student trustee for the SIU Board," notes Pembroke. "What do you enjoy most about that role?"

"Getting to learn more about the SIU System as a whole has been very insightful," answers Rogers. "Working with the other trustees and seeing their initiatives throughout the System has also been interesting. There are so many other things involved outside of the Edwardsville campus."

"Is there any particular moment that sticks out to you from your time on the Board so far?" asks Pembroke.

"There have been many memorable moments," admits Rogers. "Gov. Pritzker coming to campus was super interesting. I never imagined that I would be meeting the governor along with all of these other opportunities.

"Moving to the Board of Trustees has been a transition for me. Last year, I was student body president and only concerned about the issues surrounding the Edwardsville campus. Now, I have a role within the University System and have to think about what is best for everyone involved and how decisions effect the entire System."

"What advice would you give to a potential student who is thinking about coming to SIUE?" asks Pembroke.

"Follow your heart," says Rogers. "I came to SIUE on my first college visit, and I loved it. When I visited other colleges, I didn't like them as much. I started asking myself where I saw myself growing and where I belong, and it was SIUE."